support terror in any manner. The situation in Kashmir is not taking a turn similar to the Kargil episode. The deployment of security forces in J&K is reviewed keeping in view the contingency requirement as a result of threat perception from time to time.

Super-sensitive contract to Black-listed firm

888. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent media reports entitled "Black-listed firm got DRDO's 'super-sensitive' contract";

(b) if so, how such a serious lapse went unnoticed in the Ministry;

(c) whether the Ministry propose to institute an investigation as to how this happened; and

(d) whether deterrent action would be taken against the official responsible for such a serious lapse?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The contract was placed by Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL), a public sector undertaking, on Shoghi communication on 28th February 2005. The advisory of Ministry of Defence, indicating banning of dealings with the firm, was issued only on 19th September 2005, *i.e.* after the placement of contract. No payment has been made to the firm. Dealings with the firm have ceased.

Purchase of three Warships from Russia

889.SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally decided to purchase three warships from Russia, recently;

(b) if so, the price of each such warship and when they are expected to reach India;

(c) whether each of these ships would be fully equipped on the pattern of earlier warship, INS Prahar, which was purchased at the cost of Rs. 200 crore and sank in an accident with merchant vessel, Rajiv Gandhi; and

(d) if so, how arms and ammunitions purchased from Russia are reliable and dependable like MiG 21/MiG 25 and MiG 29?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) to (d) A contract was signed with M/s Rosoboronexport, Russia on 14.7.2006 for the acquisition of three stealth frigates. The cost of each ship is USD 332 million (equivalent to Rs. 1482.38 crore @ 1 USD=Rs. 44.65). These ships are scheduled to be delivered in 2011-2012.

The ships would be fully equipped according to navy's staff requirements. They are different from INS Prahar which was smaller than these ships and of a different type. The decision to induct the three ships was based on the experience of navy gained in terms of reliability and dependability of the three stealth frigates already inducted.

Ban on mobile phones in offices

†890. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned carrying of mobile-cum-camera phones in offices including I.B. considered sensitive from security view point; and

(b) if so, the number of offices identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) and (b) In the Ministry of Defence, according to the existing instructions of the various services and departments, carrying of Mobile Phones with camera is not permitted in the office premises of the Defence Headquarters Security (DHQ) zone, Units/formation Headquarters/Establishment of the Army; Technical Area/Headquarters of the Air Force; Defence High Security zones of the Navy and the Laboratories and Establishments of the Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO).

Purchase of Warships from Russia

891. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to purchase three more 4000 tonnes warships from Russia;

(b) if so, the details regarding the configuration and advantages of these warships; and

(c) the details regarding the technical advantages of these warships, which would imporve our Naval power and how much this deal will cost?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.